

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 09386 01 OF 02 021815Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----021823Z 040435 /40
O R 021802Z JUN 77 ZFF 4
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8751
USMISSION NATO
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USBERLIN

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 09386

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, GW, GE, WB, US, UR, FR, NATO
SUBJECT: BRIEFING NATO ON SOVIET DEMARCHES ON ALLIED
PATROLS IN EAST BERLIN

REF: SECTO 5024

BEGIN SUMMARY: BONN GROUP HAS REACHED AD REF
AGREEMENT ON TEXT OF PROPOSED NATO BRIEFING.
WHILE IT MAKES CLEAR THAT THE SOVIET DEMARCHES ONLY
CONCERN ALLIED ACCESS TO EAST BERLIN, IT IS, AT
FRENCH INSISTENCE, OTHERWISE LACKING IN DETAIL.
ACTION REQUESTED: APPROVAL OF TEXT AND AUTHORIZATION
FOR USNATO TO COORDINATE ON PRESENTATION OF BRIEFING.
END SUMMARY

1. THERE FOLLOWS THE TEXT OF THE SUGGESTED NATO
BRIEFING, ON WHICH BONN GROUP REACHED AD REF AGREEMENT
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SECRET

PAGE 02 BONN 09386 01 OF 02 021815Z

ON JUNE 2.

BEGIN TEXT

THE SOVIET UNION HAS MADE DEMARCHES IN LONDON, PARIS,
AND WASHINGTON, WHICH PUT IN QUESTION THE FREE MOVEMENT
OF ALLIED MILITARY PERSONNEL IN UNIFORM IN THE EASTERN

SECTOR OF BERLIN. SUCH MOVEMENT IS IN EXERCISE OF ALLIED RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES. IN REPLY THE THREE ALLIES REAFFIRMED THEIR INTENTION TO CONTINUE TO EXERCISE THESE RIGHTS.

THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES SAID THAT THEY WISHED TO KEEP THEIR DEMARCHES STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL. SINCE CONFIDENTIALITY IS IN THE WESTERN INTEREST, IN THEIR REPLY THE THREE POWERS INDICATED THAT THEY SHARED THE SOVIET WISH. WE CONTINUE TO ATTACH GREAT IMPORTANCE TO AVOIDING PUBLICITY.

END TEXT

2. SINCE THERE HAS BEEN A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF PRESS ATTENTION DEVOTED TO THE SUBJECT (THE LATEST REPORT, A FAIRLY LENGTHY AND SOMEWHAT INACCURATE ONE FROM DIE ZEIT OF JUNE 2, IS BEING REPORTED SEPTTEL), IT WAS RECOGNIZED THAT SPECIFIC QUESTIONS MAY BE RAISED BY NATO PERMREPS. IT WAS ALSO AGREED AD REF THAT, IF ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE MATTER, THE ALLIED PERMREP WHO PRESENTS THE BRIEFING SHOULD REPLY: "IN VIEW OF THE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO CONFIDENTIALITY, WE FEEL UNABLE TO GO BEYOND WHAT WE HAVE ALREADY SAID."

3. THE US REP WAS THE ONLY ONE WITH WRITTEN INSTRUCTIONS (REF A) PRIOR TO THE MEETING. THE UK REP HAD BEEN ORALLY TOLD BY THE FCO TO BE FLEXIBLE AND THE FRENCH REP HAD BEEN ORALLY TOLD TO PUSH FOR A DRAFT AS SECRET

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PAGE 03 BONN 09386 01 OF 02 021815Z

NEAR AS POSSIBLE TO A FRENCH TEXT EARLIER PROVIDED. AN INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF THE FRENCH TEXT FOLLOWS:

BEGIN FRENCH TEXT

IT IS TRUE THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE MADE DEMARCHES WHICH HAVE GIVEN IN THE THREE ALLIED CAPITALS THE IMPRESSION THAT THEY (SOVIETS) WERE SEEKING TO UNDERMINE THE EXERCISE OF CERTAIN ALLIED RIGHTS. THE REPLY WAS THAT THE QUADRIPARTITE RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES DERIVED FROM THE WAR AND REFLECTED IN THE AGREEMENTS AND DECISIONS OF THAT PERIOD ARE AT THE VERY BASE OF THE QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT AND LIKE IT MUST REMAIN UNTOUCHED.

END FRENCH TEXT

4. IN BONN GROUP DISCUSSION, US REP SUGGESTED THAT IN VIEW OF THE AMOUNT OF DETAIL THAT HAS APPEARED IN THE

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PAGE 01 BONN 09386 02 OF 02 021817Z
ACTION SS-25

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O R 021802Z JUN 77 ZFF 4
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
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USMISSION NATO
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USBERLIN

S E C R E T SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 09386

EXDIS

PRESS, THE BONN GROUP SHOULD SUGGEST TO CAPITALS THAT THE BRIEFING SHOULD CONFIRM THAT THE DEMARCHES CONCERNED ALLIED MILITARY ACCESS TO EAST BERLIN, NOT OTHER RIGHTS. WE POINTED OUT THAT THE INFERENCE COULD OTHERWISE BE DRAWN THAT THE SOVIETS HAD CHALLENGED ACCESS FROM THE FRG TO WEST BERLIN OR EVEN OTHER RIGHTS, THEREBY SUGGESTING A MUCH MORE SERIOUS SITUATION THAN IS IN FACT THE CASE. (THIS IS PARTICULARLY TRUE IN LIGHT OF THE ERRONEOUS STATEMENT IN THE JUNE 2 DIE ZEIT ARTICLE THAT THE SOVIETS HAD HINTED AT INTERFERENCE WITH ACCESS TO WEST BERLIN.) IN ADDITION, WE SUGGESTED THAT WE SHOULD NOT EXPECT THE NATO ALLIES TO BE SATISFIED WITH A SUMMARY AND PRO FORMA BRIEFING WHICH MERELY ADUMBRATES THE SUBJECT. WE SUGGESTED THAT A LIST OF RECOMMENDED TALKING POINTS SHOULD BE DRAWN UP TO ANSWER THE QUESTIONS EXPECTED TO FOLLOW THE BRIEFING AND THAT ONE OF THESE WOULD CONFIRM THAT THE DEMARCHE CONCERNED FLAG TOURS. THE CAPITALS WOULD THEN HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO DECIDE WHETHER THE ADDITIONAL TALKING

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 BONN 09386 02 OF 02 021817Z

POINTS WERE DESIRABLE.

5. THE FRG REP (HENZE) AGREED, THE UK REP (EYERS) WAS FLEXIBLE AND THE FRENCH REP (GAUSSOT) SAID THAT THE FRENCH PREFERRED TO GIVE NO BRIEFING AT ALL BUT WOULD AGREE AT MOST TO A VERY GENERAL ONE. BECAUSE OF FRENCH INSISTENCE, THE RESULT WAS THE ABOVE TEDIOUSLY NEGOTIATED AD REF TEXT.

6. WE UNDERSTAND THAT A NATO BRIEFING, IF IT IS TO TAKE PLACE, MUST BE GIVEN NO LATER THAN EARLY NEXT WEEK OR WAIT UNTIL LATE JUNE. IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT THIS SUBJECT CONTINUES TO APPEAR IN THE PRESS, WE ASSUME THE BRIEFING SHOULD TAKE PLACE SOONER RATHER THAN LATER. THERE WAS SOME DISCUSSION OF WHO SHOULD PRESENT THE BRIEFING IN NATO, BUT THE BONN GROUP AGREED THAT THIS IS BEST DECIDED IN NATO. FYI: SINCE ONE OF THE THREE ALLIES WILL PRESUMABLY BRIEF, THE FACT THE FRENCH ARE IN THE CHAIR IN BERLIN IN JUNE COULD BE ONE BASIS FOR A DECISION AMONG THE THREE NATO MISSIONS.

7. COMMENT: WHILE THE EMBASSY HAS RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE DESIRABILITY OF GIVING NATO A BRIEFING WHICH IS SILENT ON SEVERAL KEY POINTS, WE BELIEVE THAT IT IS THE BEST THAT CAN BE ACHIEVED IF THE BRIEFING IS TO BE HELD NEXT WEEK AND RECOMMEND APPROVAL.

8. ACTION REQUESTED: AUTHORIZATION FOR USNATO TO COORDINATE WITH THE OTHER THREE MISSIONS ON PRESENTATION OF TEXT IN PARA 1 ABOVE.
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